

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 7, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Potato Harvest Began

Whitman County reported a Frost on July 5

FIELD CROPS

Potato growers began to harvest the Yellow Finn variety in Grays Harbor County. Christmas tree growers were busy applying pesticides for aphid infestation. Turfgrass growers prepared fields for seeding. Cereal grains were reported in good condition. Several counties were dealing with rust in the spring wheat crop. Frost was reported in Whitman County on July 5, no damage has yet been determined.

LIVESTOCK

First cutting of hay was completed. Central Washington's second cutting had a slow start due to uncooperative weather. Dairy farmers continued irrigating and harvesting forage fields. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 8% poor, 73% fair and 18% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Greenhouse tomato growers began harvesting their first tomatoes of the season in Grays Harbor County. Commercial dahlia growers were staking plants. Strawberry harvest continued. Benton County cherry harvest continued in later areas and varieties. Apricot harvest was underway. Vineyards were thinning grape vines and clusters.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.6	6.0

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	3	27	70	0
Subsoil	1	34	65	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	1	14	85	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	98	82	82	92
Barley Headed	97	70	94	95
Winter Wheat Harvested	1	0	1	1
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	100	99	100	97
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	37	15	61	55

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	37	43	14
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	10	51	35	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	70	30
Barley Dryland	0	10	55	33	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	10	80	10
Corn	0	0	10	90	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	15	75	5
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Hay harvest mid-week was a big priority for those with hay down. Fields that had already been harvested were very dry, with little signs of new growth. Lavender growers were busy tending to the plants as they near the peak of the season and the Lavender Festival.

Grays Harbor: Copious amounts of rain were welcomed by most ag producers following a week of very warm temperatures. The rain quickly alleviated dry soil conditions resulting in increased plant growth. Sweet corn plant development continued to be less than what it should be for this time of year. Producers were already predicting a late harvest. The rain caught some livestock producers off guard who had cut hay in anticipation of dry weather. Christmas tree growers continued spraying newly planted trees for root aphids. Dairy producers continued irrigating forage fields to increase yields. Commercial hot house tomato producers reported they would begin harvest of the “Blitz” variety next week. Commercial dahlia growers reported initial growers were monitoring fields for flea beetle infestations.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Significant rains over the weekend replenished soil moisture. Crops responded to the warm, humid conditions with remarkable growth.

Pierce/South King: Heavy rains over the weekend have lead to above average rainfall for this time of the year. There was no report of any crop damage due to the weather.

Skagit: Hot, dry weather the past couple of weeks caused some concern, but no crop injury was reported. Farmers with irrigation capabilities were irrigating crops like blueberries and

beet transplants. Rain mid-week was welcomed. Strawberry harvest was in full swing, but late due to earlier cool temperatures. Quality was excellent. Potato acreage was up substantially this year in response to lost pea contracts when National Foods closed. With so little precipitation, disease pressure so far was very low in all crops.

Snohomish/North King: The forecast of rain late in the week made completing the hay harvest a priority for many farmers. Crop farmers were busy spraying and cultivating crops. Dairy farmers could barely keep up with grass growth for the silage harvest. Heavy rain and wind Friday through Saturday morning halted most field activities. There were no reports of the heavy rain and cooler temperatures negatively affecting the strawberry harvest.

Thurston: Very warm temperatures reaching the low 90's were quickly cooled off to the mid 60's by mid-week, as a low front brought rain showers into the area. Most ag producers were extremely pleased with the increased soil moisture. The exceptions were the strawberry growers, who were in the second week of harvest, and the livestock producers who had cut hay in anticipation of continuing dry weather. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistle infestations. Organic vegetable growers continued harvesting early season vegetables and battling weeds. Commercial blueberry growers reported ripe fruit on the Weymouth variety. Turfgrass growers began seeding new fields and were especially pleased to have temperatures and moisture conditions which provided nearly ideal conditions for seed germination.

CENTRAL

Benton: Cherry harvest continued in the county. There were some calls from producers of crop damage to cherries, plums and soft fruits. There was a light rain storm that hit Kennewick during the week. The grass harvest will continue. The wheat producers were anticipating a light harvest for the dryland acreage.

Chelan/Douglas: Light rain was received on Friday. Precipitation was not expected to have caused damage to the cherry crop. Cherry harvest continued. Precipitation was not enough to help the currently stressed wheat crop. Less than one-tenth of an inch was received at Waterville.

Grant: Green pea harvest was ongoing. The dryland needs rain. Sweet corn planting continued. Bunch onion seed harvest began. Grass seed harvest was underway. Late blight was found on potatoes in the Grant-Adams area. Seed pea harvest began.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with a high temperature of 99 degrees on June 26. There were .35 of an inch of precipitation on Friday. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Crop conditions remained unchanged after rain showers were received near the end of the week.

Asotin/Garfield: Extremely hot weather at mid-week was damaging to crops, but was followed by rain and cool temperatures late in the week were very beneficial to the crops.

Lincoln: Crop conditions remained unchanged following rain showers near the end of the week.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: Rain was received on Friday and Saturday. The amount varied in the two counties from .2" to .75". The rain was good and bad news. Much of the first cutting of hay was down and ready for baling. Some hay was rained on. The rain was good for the grain crops which were headed and filling. Some bluegrass seeded were swathed in Spokane County. More fields will be swathed this week. Yields were expected to be below average due to the drought last fall and the cool weather this past spring. Reports from Pend Oreille County indicated that the timothy hay was doing very good this year and should be average to above average this year.

Stevens: A few rain showers were received towards the end of the week. Haying continued in full swing. Pastures were holding up well in most of the county. Grain crops appeared to be in good condition.

Walla Walla: Pea and cherry harvests continued. Rhizoctinia was a problem in peas and beans, along with leafroll virus in green peas. Soil moisture condition in dryland cereals was a problem in some areas.

Whitman: Winter wheat and spring cereals were in mostly good to excellent condition in the eastern section of the county, while grain conditions were only fair in the drier western half of the county. Stem rust was widely diagnosed in spring wheat and fungicide sprays were broadly made across the impacted acreage. Baling of grass hay continued throughout the week. Hot weather and temperatures, well into the 90's, occurred mid-week, but by late week the temperatures moderated with scattered showers. Pea and lentil crops continued to bloom on the eastern edge of the county, while pea crops in the western growing areas had set pods with only fair yield prospects.

Whitman (2nd Report): Relief from hot, dry conditions came in the form of clouds, cooler temperatures, and rain. Weather conditions remained ideal for crop development and timely rains hit most areas of the county. Rust was showing up in spring wheat, but otherwise crop conditions were looking very good. The first cutting of hay neared completion in most parts of the county. Summer fallow work was being done.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
July 7, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	42	72	57	-5	48	-29	0	-14	0.18	-0.17	1	32.65	-1.14	97	155
Everett	47	71	58	-5	55	-29	3	-18	0.28	-0.06	4	30.14	-4.03	88	162
Hoquiam	44	72	57	-3	52	-15	2	-5	0.43	0.08	3	63.64	-1.85	97	176
Kelso	45	81	60	-3	74	-14	9	-15	0.12	-0.18	3	40.61	-3.75	92	153
Olympia	40	80	57	-5	54	-27	3	-15	0.33	0.09	3	58.72	10.00	121	167
Seattle-Tacoma	51	76	61	-4	78	-20	9	-22	0.05	-0.18	1	37.65	2.13	106	148
Shelton	39	79	57	-8	50	-45	1	-28	0.12	-0.16	4	68.48	5.51	109	159
Tacoma	43	78	59	-5	62	-33	3	-25	0.21	-0.05	2	29.80	-8.54	78	127
Vancouver	48	84	64	0	97	2	28	0	0.07	-0.16	1	37.18	-2.31	94	152
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	87	63	-4	91	-25	24	-25	0.00	-0.07	0	6.94	-1.42	83	84
Omak	39	94	65	-2	105	-5	37	-9	0.00	-0.18	0	8.83	-4.65	66	71
Stampede Pass	37	74	52	-3	27	-4	4	4	0.16	-0.26	3	75.56	-2.46	97	167
Wenatchee	48	91	67	-5	121	-30	51	-30	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.56	67	62
Yakima AP	40	95	64	-5	101	-29	34	-27	0.00	-0.07	0	6.91	-0.57	92	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	95	64	-1	101	-5	31	-10	0.00	-0.22	0	15.01	-4.46	77	82
Deer Park	37	88	60	-7	74	-44	16	-36	0.00	-0.21	0	21.12	3.99	123	120
Spokane AP	42	88	63	-4	91	-27	26	-26	0.00	-0.19	0	13.65	-1.64	89	109
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	51	96	69	-5	133	-29	63	-30	0.01	-0.08	1	5.57	-1.15	83	63
Moses Lake	46	98	67	-6	124	-38	54	-39	0.00	-0.09	0	5.74	-0.98	85	65
Quincy	45	90	65	-5	109	-28	39	-29	0.00	-0.07	0	6.07	-1.20	83	59
Ritzville	42	89	61	-7	80	-41	16	-37	0.00	-0.14	0	9.83	-0.79	93	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	93	68	-8	127	-53	57	-53	0.00	-0.07	0	5.48	-0.60	90	50
Pasco	44	98	67	-7	117	-46	47	-46	0.00	-0.07	0	5.53	-1.49	79	57
Pullman	41	86	60	-4	69	-26	10	-23	0.00	-0.22	0	17.62	-2.05	90	109
Walla Walla AP	48	98	69	-5	134	-28	64	-29	0.00	-0.14	0	14.77	-3.50	81	100
Whitman Mission	44	91	65	-5	105	-32	35	-33	0.00	-0.14	0	12.99	0.19	101	95
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	45	84	61	-7	81	-41	17	-36	0.99	0.72	1	20.49	-3.50	85	117
Lewiston ID	50	92	69	-4	132	-23	62	-24	0.00	-0.19	0	9.97	-1.20	89	101

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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